

DEMOCRATIC-NORTHWEST

And Henry County News.

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Democratic-Northwest.

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—BY—

L. L. ORWIG.

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Per Line per One Second, .05, .10, .15, .20, .25

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Per Line per One Thousandth of a Second, .005, .01, .015, .02, .025

Per Line per One Millionth of a Second, .001, .002, .003, .004, .005

Per Line per One Billionth of a Second, .0001, .0002, .0003, .0004, .0005

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Per Line per One Quintillionth of a Second, .0000001, .0000002, .0000003, .0000004, .0000005

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A REMINISCENCE

IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE MAUMEE VALLEY.

Atrocious Murder of Three Wyandot Indians

IN HENRY COUNTY AS LATE AS THE YEAR 1841.

The Murderers were Notorious desperadoes and Made their Escape and were Never Recaptured.

The following account of the murder of three Indians in this county, in the year 1841 by white men, was read at the meeting of the Maumee Valley Pioneer association, yesterday at Defiance, by Prof. C. W. Williamson, principal of the Wapakoneta schools, and formerly Superintendent of the Napoleon schools.

The details of the following reminiscence of Northwestern Ohio have never, to our knowledge, appeared in print. Like much of the early history of the valley they are known only to a few.

The bloody conflicts that occurred between adventurous white men and the Indians of this section of the state, extended over a period of nearly thirty years, and did not cease until after the final treaty of peace at St. Marys in 1818. The year following the treaty, emigrants from the eastern states and the older settled sections of Ohio began to settle in the valley. Along with the settlers there came a class of lawless men—at that time called "frontiersmen." Many of them were gamblers, horse thieves and other fugitives from justice. Up to 1846 the settlers were greatly annoyed by them, robbery and murder being of frequent occurrence.

The dense forests that covered the valley had, up to the time of the treaty, been the favorite hunting ground of the Indians, and the fear of losing them was the principal cause of their desperate resistance to the encroachments of the white man. For years after the treaty parties of them returned to certain sections of the year to hunt. In the fall of 1841 a party of Wyandot Indians went to Fulton county to hunt, and remained there until late in the season. The party was led by Sam-Mun-De-Wat, an Indian preacher, who had been converted at the Methodist mission at Upper Sandusky, under the ministrations of the Rev. James B. Finley. Having many horse loads of fur and other skins, Sam-Mun-De-Wat started for home a few days in advance of his company, with his nephew and little Nancy, his niece.

Before leaving Upper Sandusky he was provided, by traders, with about five hundred dollars in money with which he was to purchase furs. He expended about three hundred dollars and was returning with the remainder of the money on his person. The fact that he was in possession of an amount of money became known to Ellsworth, a notorious outlaw who kept a hole in the western part of Wood county, near the Henry county line. This hole was a rendezvous for criminals. Ellsworth immediately called to his assistance two of his confederates, James Lyon and William Anderson. After a consultation they decided to waylay the Indians and if possible secure the money. Sam-Mun-De-Wat and his two relatives entered the northern part of their journey toward the northwestern part of Defiance county. Ellsworth gave directions to the two men as to where the Indians could be accompanying them over half the distance.